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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-seventh session of the Commission/ eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
20-24 April 1992

FIRST REVISION OF THE MEDIUM TERM-PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992/1997

1. The 1992-1997 Medium term Plan (MTP) is to undergo its first revision which will serve as the legal basis for the programme budget that will be proposed for the biennium 1994-1995. Consequently, this document proposes a number of revisions on the basis of:

(a) The recommendations of the Task Force on the Review and Appraisal of the Policy Orientation, Programme and Management Capacity of ECA with regard to regrouping the Commission's activities;

(b) The incomplete efforts of 1990 to disaggregate the "Development issues" subprogramme and to link the issues and problems of human resources planning, development and utilization with those of social development in order to formulate and implement relevant social policy measures and programmes for poverty alleviation, social progress and general well-being of the people;

(c) The establishment of the "New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s"; and

(d) Instructions from United Nations Headquarters which advise that the MTP should be revised to reflect the implementation of:

(i) United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 712 (XXVI) on Africa's participation in the preparation of UNCED; and

(ii) UNCTAD VIII which was to be held in February 1992.

2. The endorsement of the Conference for the retention of the revisions proposed below in the 1992-1997 Medium-term Plan is respectfully solicited.

3. A copy of the Medium-term Plan as approved by the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly [Supplement No.6 (A/45/6/Rev.1)] is attached as annex for easy reference.

PROGRAMME 30. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

A. Programme

1. General orientation

Paragraph 30.1. Add General Assembly resolution 45/178 on the Critical economic situation in Africa and Commission resolution 718 (XXVI) on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa.*

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 30.12. Add at the end of paragraph "... such as the strengthening of the Commissions."

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* A resolution was passed by the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly which called for the strengthening of the regional commissions.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

Subprogramme 7. Substitution of title with "Social and human resources development".

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES IN THE ECA REGION

(a) Objectives

Delete paragraphs 30.19, 30.20 and 30.22.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Delete paragraph 30.25.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. MARINE AFFAIRS

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. SOCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
(proposed as the new title)

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.59. Add "general Assembly resolution 45/86 and 45/87; and Commission resolutions 644 (XXIII) and 713 (XXVI)".

Add paragraph 30.59 (A). Add the following text: "The recognition that sustained development and transformation in the African region requires an integrated approach and effective interplay between economic factors and social and human dimensions point to the need for policy analysis, research and information exchange on issues and problems of social development as they interact with other development issues in order to formulate and implement relevant social policy measures and programmes. Poverty alleviation as well as social progress and well-being also necessitates an integrated approach, particularly as regards the rural population and vulnerable groups, with a focus on equity, social justice and popular participation."

Substitute paragraph 30.60. Substitute with "Available data show that youth underemployment, illiteracy, rural-urban migration, worsening conditions of vulnerable groups, juvenile delinquency and rising crime, including drug abuse and illicit trafficking, are posing a serious threat to the economic and social well-being of African countries."

Substitute paragraph 30.61. Substitute with "Another crucial issue facing African countries is the need for coherent planning, development and utilization of human resources. The problem is rooted in inadequate educational and training systems as well as in inadequacies in effective human resources and employment planning, which have hampered the contribution that human resources could make to economic growth and socio-economic development."

Delete paragraph 30.62.

Delete paragraph 30.63.

Paragraph 30.64. Add subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e);

"(c) The identification, analysis and research of social development issues and problems as basis for social planning within the context of overall development planning, and for the formulation of appropriate social policies and strategies;"

"(d) The promotion of integrated approach to social progress through equity, social justice and popular participation, with a focus on the rural population;"

"(e) Promoting the effective development of human resources necessary for accelerated economic and social development in all sectors of the national economy and to strengthen capabilities for human resources planning, development and utilization as a basis for optimizing the contribution of human resources to development."

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Add paragraph 30.66 (A): "The ECA secretariat will also assist member States in planning, designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating human resources development and utilization by conducting and organizing, on the basis of related studies, training workshops, seminars and conferences at national, subregional and regional levels for senior government officials and personnel from both the private and parastatal sectors, providing advisory services to member States on manpower and employment planning, assisting them in strengthening their institutional machinery for human resources development and utilization, and evaluating education and training programmes."

SUBPROGRAMME 8. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.72. Add General Assembly resolution 44/228, on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and Commission resolution 712 (XXVI) on African participation in the preparation of UNCED.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Add paragraph 30.74 (A). "The subprogramme will also identify strategies to be coordinated regionally for concerted action to deal with major environmental issues in the socio-economic development processes of African countries within a particular time-frame. Such strategies will be aimed at examining the relationship between environmental degradation and the structure of the international economic environment, combating poverty and recommending modalities for access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies."

Reformulate paragraph 30.75, line 4. After "...sound development." Add "follow-up activities based on directions outlined by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will also be undertaken at the regional level."

SUBPROGRAMME 10. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.76. Add to this paragraph "General Assembly resolution 43/181."

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Reformulate paragraph 30.81 (b). Reformulate by adding at the end of existing paragraph "coordinating the training and retraining of specialist personnel necessary for the implementation of shelter strategies and programmes in the region";

Reformulate paragraph 30.81 (c). Modify by adding at the end of present text "providing inputs to the global data base on human settlements";

Add paragraph 30.81 (d). "Cooperating on policy research into shelter and development issues, and in the exchange of information on programming, financing, production and maintenance of shelter."

SUBPROGRAMME 11. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.82. Add "General Assembly resolution 46/458 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa".

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Reformulate paragraph 30.86. Reformulate by adding at the end of present text "Activities in the field of basic industries will include the provision of technical advisory services and assistance in the identification, preparation, appraisal and promotion of subregional projects in basic and related industries. Follow-up activities on implementation of the IDDA-II programme will include organizing consultation and negotiation meetings among member States and relevant technological, development and financial institutions to discuss and make decisions on project development, mobilizing resources, and promoting investment."

SUBPROGRAMME 12. TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.88: Add "General Assembly resolution 45/210 on environment and international trade".

Paragraph 30.90: Add new paragraph (c) to read as follows: "To examine the regional situation and future trends regarding the relation between environmental issues and international trade."

SUBPROGRAMME 13. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 14. EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 15. NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.106 (a): To be substituted with "Improving their knowledge of mineral resources endowment and the need for strengthening multi-country cooperative mechanisms for mineral development and utilization;"

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Reformulate paragraph 30.108: Reformulate by adding at end of present text the following: "Advisory services and technical support will be extended to member States and multinational mineral resources development institutions."

SUBPROGRAMME 16. ENERGY

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 17. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 18. POPULATION

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.120: Add Council resolution 1991/92, General Assembly resolutions 44/228 and 45/216."

Paragraph 30.123. Add new paragraph (c) to read as follows: "To coordinate at the regional level focus on issues addressing the relationship between demographic pressures and sustainable consumption patterns, and environmental degradation."

SUBPROGRAMME 19. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.126. Add "General Assembly resolution 40/172; Council resolution 1991/83 and Commission resolutions 567 (XXI), 640 (XXIII), 656 (XXIV) and 710 (XXVI)."

SUBPROGRAMME 20. TOURISM

No change.

SUBPROGRAMME 21. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 30.136: Add "Commission resolutions 469 (XVIII) and 683 (XXV)."

Reformulate paragraph 30.139 (d), line 1. After ... "data..." add "for use".

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

Reformulate paragraph 30.140, line 2. After ... "in the region..." add "as detailed in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s and in the Strategy for its implementation,"

Paragraph 30.140 (b). Substitute with "Advisory services to countries on the formulation of statistical development plans, including data production and analysis schedules, training programmes and detailed data-processing requirements, on the establishment of user/producer committees for optimizing the use of and relevance of statistical services, and on the development and maintenance of national statistical data bases;"

Reformulate paragraph 30.140 (d). Reformulate by adding at the beginning of paragraph "Development". Also modify same paragraph, line 3. After "... data from..." substitute text with "national sources and other international data banks;"

Paragraph 30.140 (e). Substitute with "Statistical computing materials for formal and on-the-job training of statisticians at statistical training centres."

Annex

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME 30. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

A. Programme

1. General orientation

30.1 The legislative authority of the programme derives from Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations and from Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV) of 25 April 1958, whereby the Council established ECA and assigned it with the following responsibilities: facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, and maintaining and strengthening economic cooperation in the region and the cooperation of the African countries with other countries of the world. The mandate of the programme is further elaborated in a number of General Assembly and Council resolutions, as well as in the Commission's resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 43/27, 44/24 and 44/169; Council resolutions 1988/66 and 1989/116; and Commission resolutions 673 (XXIV) and 676 (XXIV).

30.2 The programme is aimed at:

(a) Intensifying and diversifying international economic cooperation among the countries in Africa and strengthening coordination of policies of economic cooperation of African countries and the region as a whole with other countries and regions of the world;

(b) Providing potential opportunities for sustainable economic development process in each country of the region with specific emphasis on the economic development of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in Africa, through the implementation of appropriate policies in that respect in each country and in the region as a whole;

(c) Attaching growing importance to social aspects of economic development of the African countries and to the interrelationship of economic and social factors and development, with emphasis placed on the integration of specific population groups into the development process.

30.3 During the decade of the 1980s, the effects of aggravating factors, on the domestic front, such as the impact of unprecedented droughts, the average rate of population growth far in excess of the rate of increase in food production and the deficient economic management policies, and, on the external front, the collapse in the prices of commodities, the deterioration in the terms of trade, the declining trend in real terms in the flow of official development assistance, the widespread protectionism, the high interest rates, the currency fluctuations and the heavy debt and debt-servicing burden were superimposed on Africa and compounded the debilitating effects of its long-standing underlying fragile socio-economic structures. Africa, therefore, constituted a very weak link in the chain of global

economic relations and became in effect the priority region for United Nations attention and action as the fundamental issue in the region became survival and recovery.

30.4 The mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, conducted by the General Assembly at its forty-third session in 1988, has indicated that the achievements gained within the framework of the implementation of the Programme in terms of African economic and social recovery and growth can only be considered as useful and substantial beginnings. The pursuit of the goals and objectives of the programme, as with those contained in the other regionally agreed strategies and approaches, must continue well into the 1990s.

30.5 It has become increasingly clear that the basic problem facing African economies is that of initiating and sustaining viable economic and social development processes. Thus, while measures must be taken to deal with short-term problem of internal and external imbalances, such as budget and balance-of-payments deficits, those measures should be taken within the framework of the long-term objectives of socio-economic recovery and transformation. During the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan, intensified and much-improved international cooperation will be particularly significant in enabling African countries to make the necessary break away from underdevelopment. In that connection, the maintenance of a substantially improved external environment characterized by improved aid and technical assistance modalities, a sustained, equitable and non-inflationary growth, liberal trade policies and improved market access especially for tropical products and manufactures from third world countries will be essential.

30.6 The challenge to ECA is daunting. Among the factors required to sustain a dynamic and diversified process of development and growth, human resources planning, development and utilization must be retained as a priority of the first order with a view to enhancing the capacities of all population groups, including especially farming communities, and ensuring the increased supply of middle- and high-level skilled manpower and technologies required especially for the conversion of domestic industrial raw materials into semi-finished and finished products. Attention will be paid to the critical role of entrepreneurial resources, especially as it relates to the transfer and development of technology and to the problem of mass unemployment. The employment question will itself have to be perceived and addressed in terms of the factors determining population growth and composition and their incorporation in planning and programming processes. An essential component of activity in that area will be a substantially expanded programme for the integration of women, especially rural women, in development, with increased emphasis on the promotion of employment, productive resources and income for women, and women's participation in decision-making, in the industrialization process and in the informal sector.

30.7 The near collapse of the African economies around the middle of the 1980s was due primarily to difficulties encountered in the agricultural sector. The related food crisis and its consequences were unprecedented in the region's history. The priority attention accorded to the sector in the last few years must, therefore, continue.

30.8 The challenge to industry in Africa in the 1990s will be to lay a sound foundation for self-reliant and self-sustaining industrialization by shifting the empl sis from import-dependent consumer goods industries to resource-base and engineering core industrie: in food processing, textiles, forest and wood, metals, mechanical, chemicals and petrochemicals and building materials within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. During the 1990s, therefore, renewed effort will have to be concentrated on creating favourable conditions for small-scale industries and the effective functioning of private and public enterprises. Emphasis will also be put on the adoption by African countries of sound industrial policies, plans and programmes and on the institution and building of technological and management capabilities.

30.9 Infrastructure for self-reliant and self-sustaining diversified development and economic growth embraces a wide range of essential institutions, services and physical structures. Special attention will have to be paid to the influence of transport and communications on the nature and dynamics of domestic markets and the need in that regard for the effective integration of national and multinational economies. The implementation of the programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa should serve as a useful framework in that regard. The potential inherent in tourism for promoting intra-African cooperation and development should also be enhanced through the development of intra-African tourism, establishment of inter-State tourist circuits and development of the required technical skills.

30.10 In other sectors of the economy, the region will be faced with the need to reform market structures, intensify interregional trade and strengthen trade-oriented and multisectoral intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions. Further efforts are required for the creation of a favourable environment for inflows of financial resources to the countries of the region and conditions for their effective utilization. The regional programme for social development will need to be deepened in the 1990s in order to enhance the appropriate social environment and requirements for economic productivity, social welfare and individual well-being. Another important area is the continual assessment of the role of the public sector with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness, improving the performance of public enterprises, reforming the public services to make them more development oriented, and formulating measures for encouraging the participation of indigenous entrepreneurs in the development of the private and public sectors of the economies. Finally, the need for substantial improvement of statistical and information systems in the region based on the greater use of computer technology is essential for the improvement of the decision-making process in different sectors of the economy at the country, subregional and regional levels.

2. Overall strategy

30.11 The programme will be implemented by the secretariat of ECA. The Commission will continue to be a focal point in developing strategies for enhancing the regional and interregional cooperation in the interests of African countries. During the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan, the secretariat will undertake economic and social research and analyses of specific issues, in accordance with priorities established by the Commission, provide substantive and conference-servicing of the Commission, as and when required, and organize seminars and other events in member countries

and for groups of countries with a view to helping them cope with specific problems affecting them. The secretariat of ECA will disseminate findings of those meetings to all interested parties; it will also provide technical assistance and advisory services to member States, promote and support the development of appropriate institutions and identify and execute technical cooperation activities for the direct benefit of member States. In that context, particular attention will be paid to efforts to promote and sustain economic cooperation and to integrate, through the identification and formulation of multisectoral integration projects, at the subregional level, in such critical sectors as food and agriculture, industry, energy, transport and communications, as well as to promote the effective use of institutions.

30.12 In the course of the implementation of the programme, the Commission will strengthen joint programming and formal working links with UNEP, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, which provide funds for some of ECA activities in their respective areas of interest. In addition, it will also cooperate with FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO, WHO, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, UNFPA, ICAO, IMO, ITU and UPU, in matters concerning the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and with the World Bank, ILO, WFP and UNDRO in activities relating to human resources planning, development and utilization. Particular attention will be paid to cooperation with UNDP in implementing African intergovernmental agreements on, and support for, the determination of the orientation and priorities for its regional intercountry economic and technical cooperation programmes. Furthermore, the Commission will actively cooperate with other regional commissions on specific issues of mutual concern and in particular with ECE in enhancing the process of South-North cooperation.

30.13 All of those links, together with several others established with agencies outside the United Nations system, such as OAU, the African Development Bank, and other multilateral and bilateral programmes and institutions, will be progressively deepened and extended to enhance integrated joint programming for the execution of the programme. Much more use will be made of system-wide inter-agency task forces for coordinating programme implementation. The Commission will also continue to participate effectively in cross-organizational programme analyses and in the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

30.14 The programme on regional cooperation for development in Africa will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Development issues and policies

Subprogramme 2. Economic Cooperation and integration

Subprogramme 3. Agricultural and rural development

Subprogramme 4.	Marine affairs
Subprogramme 5.	Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries
Subprogramme 6.	Public administration and fiscal affairs
Subprogramme 7.	Social development
Subprogramme 8.	Advancement of women
Subprogramme 9.	Environment and development
Subprogramme 10.	Human settlements
Subprogramme 11.	Industrial development
Subprogramme 12.	Trade development and cooperation
Subprogramme 13.	Monetary and financial policies and strategies
Subprogramme 14.	Management of Africa's external debt
Subprogramme 15.	Natural resources
Subprogramme 16.	Energy, including new and renewable sources of energy
Subprogramme 17.	Science and technology for development
Subprogramme 18.	Population
Subprogramme 19.	Transport and communications
Subprogramme 20.	Tourism
Subprogramme 21.	Statistical development

30.15 Subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 11, 16 and 19 are designated high priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

30.16 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Economic Commission for Africa resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 40/100, 41/142, 41/174, 42/54, 43/194, 44/57, 44/78 and 44/169; Council resolutions 1986/51, 1987/48, 1989/72 and 1989/120; and Commission resolutions 601 (XXIII), 631 (XXIII), 633 (XXIII), 644 (XXIII), 658 (XXIV), 673 (XXIV) and 676 (XXIV).

30.17 The subprogramme addresses the problems of making key policy decisions with long gestation periods and requiring a coherent macroeconomic and social framework. Many countries of the region experience limited structural change and social transformation and modest economic growth. Productivity is low and large groups of the population of those countries live below the poverty level. Links between the economic sectors are tenuous. Most of those countries lack the necessary resources, the technological infrastructure and the required capacity for development. Changes in the structure of production, trade and consumption patterns, as well as the efficient use of scarce resources, are required in order to sustain an equitable growth for African countries and the region as a whole.

30.18 Despite some progress in economic and social development, it has proved difficult to translate objectives into specific regional policies suited to very changing international and regional environments. There is still a different understanding and assessment of the social and economic forces at work in the process of development, of the proper policy instruments to use and of the conditions required for their respective applications in the region. Further coordination of regional policies of economic and social development and the creation of effective regional and interregional integration arrangements are therefore essential.

30.19 Among the problems affecting the development process in the region, the crucial issue is the coherent planning, development and utilization of human resources. The problem is rooted in inadequate educational and training systems, which produce individuals with general knowledge and skills not suited to the immediate needs of national development. At the same time, severe shortages of skilled and highly qualified manpower in the key sectors of the economy have continued to be experienced. That problem has been compounded by the use of the available skilled and highly qualified manpower in tasks unrelated to their fields of specialization. One obvious result, therefore, has been an increasing tendency to rely heavily on expatriate personnel, especially in the scientific, technical and technological fields, as a solution to meeting immediate development needs, while efforts are being made to redress the education imbalance and bias. More important, however, is that highly qualified and skilled African personnel continue to leave their countries for employment elsewhere, particularly in developed countries, owing to the unfavourable social and economic conditions at home.

30.20 Furthermore, inadequacies in effective human resources and employment planning have tended to limit the contribution that human resources could make to economic growth and socio-economic development. It is therefore important to accelerate efforts to reverse the brain drain and to institute measures for assisting returnees and refugees to become productive.

30.21 In the light of that orientation, the objective of the subprogramme is the promotion of a continuous understanding of the process of economic and social development and growth in Africa and encouragement of a unified approach to development analysis and planning in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation, aimed at the socio-economic recovery and development of the region.

30.22 In the field of planning, development and utilization of human resources, the objective of the subprogramme is to assist African countries in promoting the effective development of human resources necessary for accelerated economic and social development in all sectors of the national economy and to strengthen capabilities for human resources planning, development and utilization as a basis for optimizing the contribution of human resources to development.

30.23 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To enhance the capability of member States to collect, store, retrieve and disseminate information on issues of African development;

(b) To develop and maintain a series of numeric and non-numeric databases for storage and dissemination of development information to be used by member States;

(c) To train personnel from member States, subregional and regional institutiOnS in the introduction and utilization of up-to-date methods of development information processing and dissemination;

(d) To develop and encourage acceptance of norms and standards for harmonizing development documentation and information.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.24 During the period 1992-1997, the secretariat of ECA will continue research and studies of specific factors influencing the African economic and social situation, including aspects of coordination of the development process. The secretariat will continue to publish the annual survey of economic and social conditions in Africa and the annual economic report on Africa. Training of African planning specialists in plan preparation, implementation techniques and methodology and the enhancement of

planning physical structures and capabilities will be continued in close cooperation with the African Institute for Economic Development Planning.

30.25 The ECA secretariat will also assist member States in planning, designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating human resources development and utilization by conducting and organizing, on the basis of related studies, training workshops, seminars and conferences at national, subregional and regional levels for senior government officials and personnel from both the private and parastatal sectors, providing advisory services to member States on manpower and employment planning, assisting them in strengthening their institutional machinery for human resources development and utilization, and evaluating education and training programmes.

30.26 Finally, the secretariat will provide advisory services on development of information management systems and technology, and training of staff of national, subregional and regional institutions in computerized information management techniques, harmonization of standards and methodologies, development of databases on social and economic development in Africa for dissemination of that information to national, subregional and regional participating centres as well as the general public.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

(a) Objectives

30.27 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 44/221, 44/222 and 44/223; and Commission resolutions 611 (XXII), 659 (XXIV), 700 (XXV) and 702 (XXV).

30.28 The smallness of the African economies, the low levels of per capita income and the dominance of subsistence production constitute major constraints on the development of viable productive units and limit their development potential. Fully aware that economic cooperation and integration among African countries was a necessity to overcome these constraints and limitations, African countries have established numerous economic communities and groupings covering all the subregions, and adopted various strategies and policy measures for the establishment of an African economic community. Efforts to make these integration arrangements more effective often have been constrained, however, by, among other things, institutional and infrastructural problems, which will need to be addressed. For example, coordination of development plans on a multinational, subregional and regional basis needs to be greatly improved. Countries also need to strengthen their ability to incorporate cooperation and integration arrangements in their national plans and policies. Appropriate rationalization and coordination of existing intergovernmental organizations with identical or similar programmes need to be pursued in order to enable these organizations to join forces in the formulation of joint projects of mutual benefit. There is also a need to increase further member States' awareness of their respective interests and possible benefits in participating in economic integration schemes.

30.29 The objectives of the subprogramme are, therefore, to strengthen the capacity of African intergovernmental organizations as effective instruments of self-sustaining and self-reliant development; to assist African countries and their intergovernmental organizations in the identification and implementation of integration projects; to promote South-South cooperation to enhance economic cooperation and integration in Africa; to advance proposals for the harmonization and rationalization of the integration activities of the various intergovernmental organizations; and to review and appraise periodically the integration activities planned and undertaken by intergovernmental organizations.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.30 The secretariat, in particular through the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in each subregion, will continue to work closely with and assist the African subregional economic communities in implementing their work programmes in priority sectors in the following subregions:

(a) West Africa: the Economic Community of West African States and its subgroupings, which are the West African Economic Community, the Mano River Union and other subregional multisectoral development organs such as the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River, the Organization for the Development of the Gambia River, the Niger Basin Authority and so on;

(b) Central Africa: the Economic Community of Central African States and its subgroupings, which are the Central African Customs and Economic Union, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and so on;

(c) Eastern and Southern Africa: the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa and two other subregional multisectoral development organs: the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and the Intergovernmental Authority Against Drought and for Development;

(d) North Africa: the Arab Maghreb Union.

30.31 The secretariat will also assist in the establishment and progressive launching of the activities of the African economic community, the objective of which is to create a single market on the African continent through rationalization and harmonization of the activities of the main economic communities in western, central, northern, eastern and southern subregions, and through the promotion of continental integration projects.

30.32 While efforts will continue to be deployed to strengthen existing subregional organizations in implementing well-integrated sectoral projects, steps will be taken to coordinate and rationalize their activities so as to create a single subregional market in each subregion. In collaboration with OAU and the African Development Bank, the Commission will assist economic integration entities in adopting viable programmes during the plan period. Assistance will be provided for, firstly, achieving self-sustaining and self-reliant development through detailed master plans for the transport and communications, energy, water and industry sectors, and for human resources development; secondly,

identification of concrete multinational projects within these sectoral master plans; and, thirdly, preparation of feasibility studies for their implementation. During the period, intraregional projects linking the main subregions of Africa will also be identified and implemented. In this regard, special attention will be given to continental road and railway networks, to continental electric grids for the exploitation of African natural resources and to projects of regional character, especially in the field of capital goods industries. A strong TCDC initiative at the subregional and regional levels will also be promoted.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.33 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 42/186, 43/190, 43/191 and 44/78; Council resolutions 1987/90 and 1989/80; and Commission resolutions 548 (XX), 565 (XXI), 598 (XXII) and 641 (XXIII).

30.34 The subprogramme addresses the problems of formulating and implementing appropriate and coherent agricultural and rural development policies, plans and programmes with emphasis on their technical, institutional and infrastructural aspects. The production base in Africa is characterized by weak intersectoral linkages. A major problem facing many countries in the region is the non-availability of, or inability to apply, appropriate policies that would ensure a steady increase in agricultural productivity through the application of appropriate technology. The situation is aggravated by the ineffective operation of most of the agricultural institutions and infrastructures.

30.35 The main issues to be addressed in that regard include coordination of agricultural and forestry research, including technology transfer particularly to smallholders; the formulation and application of appropriate policy instruments with regard to the use of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds, farm tools, machinery and implements and animal inputs; adoption of measures for the rational utilization and conservation of farm land, water and edible resources of fauna and flora; promotion of policies and measures for proper plant and animal protection and identification and recommendation of policies for developing market, store, transport and finance infrastructures in order to encourage agricultural production.

30.36 In the field of rural development, an integrated approach is required to improve the efficiency of existing institutions and to encourage the establishment of new ones when necessary to cope with the development problems of agricultural and rural sectors. In that context, further efforts are necessary for encouraging and strengthening both the planning, monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects and programmes within the overall framework of development of the agricultural sector and addressing issues of inadequate socio-economic infrastructures in rural areas and social equity among the rural population, as well as the lack of self-reliance and existing high dependence of rural communities on external assistance and low local participation in the decision-making process in rural areas.

30.37 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist the ECA members in formulating and implementing appropriate policies and strategies, with a view to attaining self-sufficiency in food and enhancing national and regional capabilities and the capacity for self-sustaining expansion in the production systems of African agriculture.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.38 In-depth analyses will be undertaken, the conclusions and recommendations of which will be conveyed through workshops, seminars or advisory services with a view to assisting member States in improving their capabilities in the planning and management of the food and agricultural sectors. Special attention will be paid to the acquisition of experience and an improved capacity for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating integrated agricultural, forestry and rural development programmes, and to improving social and economic infrastructures on a self-sustaining basis.

30.39 The secretariat will also assist the ECA members in improving or accelerating the development of adequate infrastructures, especially in the marketing subsector, and in establishing effective interregional cooperation with efforts aimed at improving agricultural and rural support services. Furthermore, the ECA secretariat will disseminate information on selected issues of agricultural, forestry and rural development, in particular, by organizing seminars and symposia.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. MARINE AFFAIRS

(a) Objectives

30.40 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 37/66 and ECA resolution 478 (XVIII).

30.41 Although the African seas are known to be rich in both living and non-living resources, most of the African States lack adequate capabilities for effective development and utilization of those resources. The principal problem encountered is the lack of appropriate policies and of related capability to enhance productivity and to adopt new technologies in the exploitation of sea resources.

30.42 In spite of their nutritional importance and low prices, fishery resources are inadequately exploited. That situation is accompanied by a lack of parallel development in related sectors, notably in the areas of research, training and stock assessment, as well as by the absence of industries for the exploitation of living resources at the national or regional levels, and inadequate joint ventures or agreements with foreign companies and Governments in the exploitation of both living and non-living resources.

30.43 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the development of African capabilities for exploration, exploitation and management of the living and non-living resources of the sea;

(b) To develop improved systems for the expansion of fisheries and formulate coherent policies with a view to increasing the food and protein supplies of the region's population.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.44 Assistance to member countries and intergovernmental organizations will be provided in strengthening capabilities for the formulation of coherent policies and activities under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in improvement of scientific and technological research through assessment of available resources in exclusive economic zones and stock-taking of various fish species, including freshwater fish, introduction of advance technologies adapted to fishing, and development of a database with a view to enhancing the technical and scientific knowledge of member States on matters of interest pertaining to living and non-living sea resources.

30.45 The secretariat will also organize training for member States in living and non-living marine resources development and management at different managerial levels, and provide assistance to States in the formulation of investment projects with particular reference to such areas as rehabilitation of existing fishing fleets and fish processing, the promotion of joint investment policies and programmes in the exploitation of resources commonly owned or shared by different countries, and strengthening marketing capabilities of the countries of the region in processing their marine resources. The secretariat will also continue to maintain and develop the information data on different aspects of the activities in that sector of the African economy and disseminate information on selected issues to all interested parties, as and when required.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(a) Objectives

30.46 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Economic Commission for Africa resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-11/4, 39/29, 39/174, 42/174, 42/177, 42/186 and 44/220; Council resolution 1989/89; and Commission resolution 667 (XXIV).

30.47 The least developed, land-locked, and island countries in Africa are generally characterized by very low per capita income, with the majority of the population living at below the minimum basic needs standards. The economic situation of most of those countries is characterized by extremely low agricultural productivity and weak agro-support institutions, underexploited natural resources, especially minerals and energy, low per capita export levels, acute scarcity of skilled personnel at all levels, and weak institutional and physical infrastructure, especially in the areas of transport and communications.

30.48 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To monitor the economic development of the least developed, land-locked and island countries in Africa and to promote appropriate policies for their transformation toward self-sustained development;

(b) To assist them within the framework of the implementation of regionally and internationally agreed strategies and of the programme of action adopted to address their special and peculiar problems.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.49 In-depth studies of the economies of the least developed, land-locked, semi-land-locked and island countries in Africa as a group, will continue to be undertaken by the ECA secretariat. The institutional arrangements for the monitoring, follow-up and review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981, will also have to be continued.

30.50 Technical advisory services will also be provided to the members of the Commission, upon request, to assist the least developed, land-locked and island countries in Africa in formulating plans and programmes on the basis of appropriate methodologies. Technical cooperation projects will be identified and submitted to donors for funding. The least developed, land-locked, and island developing countries in Africa will be given preference in intercountry technical cooperation projects. Concerted efforts will be made for follow-up, monitoring, periodic review and evaluation of follow-up arrangements to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries in the light of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

30.51 Specifically, efforts will be directed at:

(a) Assessing international efforts as they relate to the promotion of the necessary structural changes required to overcome the extreme economic difficulties of those countries, and enabling them to achieve adequate internationally acceptable minimum standards of living. Special attention will be paid to the need to improve aid modalities, adjust the volume of aid and its use to development needs of the countries and devise appropriate changes in aid programmes;

(b) Undertaking studies that will assist least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in Africa to formulate plans and programmes on the basis of appropriate planning methodologies with a view to transforming their economies;

(c) Assisting least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in Africa to secure emergency support in case of natural disasters;

(d) Undertaking studies on efficient macroeconomic management, developing structural adjustment and stabilizing programmes of the economies of those countries, including effective mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic and human resources.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

(a) Objectives

30.52 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 40/213 and 41/182; Council resolutions 1987/5, 1987/92 and 1988/7; and Commission resolution 619 (XXII).

30.53 Despite efforts by Governments in several African countries to improve the performance of their public services in the management of development, the results achieved, as evidenced from the economic crises of the 1970s and 1980s, have been marginal. Numerous problems persist, such as the tardiness of the African civil service to transform itself from a colonial, rule-bound service to that of a development-oriented one, the inadequate specialized skills and the knowledge, capability and motivation that will help the African public service to respond effectively to development challenges.

30.54 The contribution of the public enterprise sector to the process of economic development has failed to match expectations. State-owned enterprises that have been expected to provide financial surplus to the government budget have often required massive subsidization, thus imposing a fiscal burden on the national economy. There has been minimal accomplishment of the non-commercial objectives or goals set for African public enterprises.

30.55 Training institutions and programmes for the training of public administrators have not been geared to the management of economic and social development and have, therefore, impaired the performance of the public services.

30.56 There has been inadequate mobilization of domestic financial resources to finance both current and capital expenditures. That fiscal situation has given rise to the heavy public debt and its attendant servicing burden. The contributory factors, among other issues, have been the narrow base of the African taxation systems and the related inflexibility in responding to changes in social, economic and development objectives and programmes. With regard to expenditure programming, there has been no proper determination of programme priorities in accordance with development objectives for the allocation of financial resources, resulting therefore, in the growth of expenditures for those programmes and projects which do not contribute to growth and development.

30.57 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist member States in:

(a) Strengthening public administration institutions, systems, practices and processes for the improved management of economic development;

(b) Promoting the contribution of indigenous entrepreneurs in both the private and public sectors;

(c) Improving the performance of public enterprises and public financial management for efficient mobilization, allocation and control of financial resources;

(d) Adopting measures to redress the shortage of skilled manpower for the management of the public services.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.58 Advisory services will be provided for improving the performance of the public service in the development process and for improving public financial management. Research studies will be undertaken on ways and means of improving the performance of public enterprises and on the restructuring of taxation systems for adequate mobilization of domestic resources and effective measures for controlling public enterprises. Training courses, seminars and workshops will be organized in collaboration with requesting member States for their public administrators. Assistance will be provided for the strengthening of capabilities of national and subregional training and research institutions and associations dealing with improvement in public administration and management, budgetary and taxation systems, policies and administration.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.59 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 40/33, 40/34, 40/35, 41/149, 43/94, 43/98, 43/99, 44/67, 44/70 and 44/72; Council resolutions 1987/51, 1988/11, 1989/46, 1989/52, 1989/59, 1989/62, 1989/63, 1989/66, 1989/68 and 1989/69; and Commission resolution 642 (XXIII).

30.60 Available data show that youth unemployment, underemployment, illiteracy, rural exodus, juvenile delinquency and crime are still on the rise in most African countries. The economic and social crisis of the 1980s has aggravated that situation and made youth the most vulnerable group.

30.61 An estimated 50 million cases of disability are found in Africa. Inadequate programmes of primary health care and services, epidemics, malnutrition, hunger and starvation, natural calamities, environmental hazards, including various forms of accidents, armed conflicts, civil strifes and wars of liberation are among the major causes of disability and its attendant handicapping effects.

30.62 In the traditional African family, the elderly enjoy and are accorded a privileged position in society. The process of modernization, however, manifested by such factors as urbanization, industrialization, rising rates of rural-urban migration, changing social structures and the advent of the

nuclear family, is gradually transforming the unique position of the elderly in society. At the same time, little is known about the demographic, social and economic status of the steadily growing elderly population in African countries.

30.63 The rising rates of crime, both conventional and non-conventional, pose a serious threat to the economic and social well-being of African countries. Besides impairing the quality of life, crime interferes and even nullifies some of Africa's hard-won development gains.

30.64 The objectives of the subprogramme are to support the efforts of member States in:

(a) The design, implementation and evaluation of appropriate policies, programmes, strategies and services for the effective integration and participation of youth, disabled persons and the elderly in social and economic life and for the effective prevention of crime and juvenile delinquency;

(b) The administration of criminal and juvenile justice in the context of overall national development.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.65 A number of activities will be undertaken, including action-oriented research, as a basis for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of effective and relevant social policies, programmes, strategies and services; training courses, workshops, seminars, expert meetings, study tours for the exchange of ideas and experience and for the formulation of common strategies; substantial support in the establishment and strengthening of appropriate national and regional organizations, associations, institutions, coordinating bodies and structures; and technical advisory services to assist in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of relevant social policies, programmes and services.

30.66 The secretariat will also disseminate information on specific issues of social development of the region through publication of its reports and studies, as well as of other relevant documentation and provide other information services in the field of social development to the ECA members as and when required. The ECA secretariat will also cooperate with regional institutions in the field of social development, such as the African Rehabilitation Institute and the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on subjects of mutual concern.

SUBPROGRAMME 8. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

(a) Objectives

30.67 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 42/61, 42/65, 44/75, 44/77 and 44/78; Council resolutions 1987/86, 1988/19, 1988/22, 1988/29, 1989/29, 1989/33, 1989/37 and 1989/43; and Commission resolutions 597 (XXII) and 666 (XXIV).

30.68 While legal equality in the labour market is a prerequisite for promoting employment for women, it is not sufficient. Often women do not possess the required qualifications and training for jobs available. Those who are in the productive sectors, such as agriculture, experience low productivity levels as they have inadequate access to training, credit or technologies. Those inadequacies prevent the effective participation of women in the decision-making process, in particular in policy formulation and the design of development plans.

30.69 There is also a need to strengthen the database on women, information networks need to be strengthened and adequate use made of public information networks and other media for disseminating data on women.

30.70 In the framework of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for 1990-1995 and the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa beyond the United Nations Decade for Women, as well as the Abuja Declaration, the overall objective of the subprogramme is to assist the ECA member States towards increased improvement and more effective participation of women in the socio-economic development of the region. Specifically, the subprogramme will aim at promoting employment, productive resources and income for women, enhanced participation of women in decision-making, and the strengthening of the database and information networks for the formulation of policies and programmes for women.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.71 The secretariat will undertake overall and sectoral analyses of emerging socio-economic trends and their impact on African women, in particular, by utilizing a data-bank information network. Promotion of employment opportunities of women in agro-industries will be continued through the introduction of experimental projects in selected countries in the agriculture sector and the improvement of the position of women for the control of production and distribution services will be sought through training and access to credit. Through management training courses and seminars, efforts will be made to assist women to attain decision-making levels in business and in the formulation of agricultural and industrial policies.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.72 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is derived from various General Assembly and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 42/186, 42/187, 42/188, 42/189, 43/53, 44/226 and 44/227; and Commission resolutions 540 (XX), 578 (XXI), 621 (XXII), 635 (XXIII), 641 (XXIII), 645 (XXIII) and 651 (XXIII).

30.73 Events over the last five years in Africa, drought, desertification and recently the dumping of hazardous and toxic wastes, as well as the depletion of the ozone layer and global warming, have highlighted the importance of environmental management for environmentally sound and sustainable

development. While the level of environmental awareness has increased and environment activities have received greater attention through initiatives taken by member States and the support provided by ECA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations working on environmental matters in Africa, the need remains acute for assistance in developing national, subregional and regional capabilities for implementing programmes aimed at achieving sustained development through sound environmental management.

30.74 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist the ECA members in developing and strengthening existing national, subregional and regional instruments needed for environmental management, assessment and conservation. Emphasis will be laid on the development of institutional and human resources capabilities, including policy guidelines, legislative and administrative mechanisms for the environmentally sound exploitation and utilization of natural resources, pollution control and the promotion of environmental conservation and management by creating and enhancing environmental awareness.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.75 Advisory services, workshops, seminars, fellowships and study tours will be organized in order to help member States in developing and/or strengthening existing and ongoing national capabilities and programmes for environmental management, assessment and conservation for sustainable environmentally-sound development. In addition, research studies on issues of regional environment will be carried out by the secretariat to make available information to all concerned on a systematic basis. The related findings will be disseminated through publications and activity reports in order to promote environmental awareness at the grassroot level.

SUBPROGRAMME 10. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(a) Objectives

30.76 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/191.

30.77 Integrated human settlements planning has received very little attention. The complementarity between rural and urban sectors has not been emphasized. The urban economy is almost entirely dependent on imported manufactured goods and services, as well as skills and factor inputs for locally produced consumer goods. The reliance on foreign construction firms and expertise has made rural transformation and urban renewal prohibitive.

30.78 The dearth of rural infrastructure and services and the predominance of the capital city, compounded by poor farming practices along with the spread of marginal land and desertification, have triggered mass migration from the rural hinterland. In turn, the ever-decreasing carrying capacity of the rural sector has given rise to low density and a scattered settlement pattern. Concomitantly, the towns and major cities have faced overcrowding and poor living conditions. Unemployment and

underemployment and other urban problems have overly stretched the meagre resources of municipal authorities. The conjunction of urban ills and rural deprivation have often frustrated development efforts in the region.

30.79 In the light of the above, the development of human settlements management capacity within a decentralized administrative and financial framework, along with the need for trained personnel for the design and implementation of infrastructure and services, constitute a major challenge to the countries of the region.

30.80 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist member States in redressing the rural/urban imbalances through the formulation and implementation of coherent regional policies, programme and projects, in particular by:

(a) Strengthening the indigenous construction sector, including the production and utilization of locally produced building materials within a decentralized administration and financial framework conducive for attracting venture capital, and the participation of the private sector and the local population in the provision of infrastructure and services;

(b) Directing more resources to the rural economy for the provision of infrastructure and services commensurate with the role the rural sector is expected to play in the national development process;

(c) Promoting a systematic exchange of information and experience between member States in the field of human settlements development.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.81 The thrust of activities will focus on:

(a) Organizing workshops and seminars, preparing studies, reports and technical publications dealing with the formulation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects, which will emphasize the location of infrastructure and services, as well as the efficient distribution of activities and population along with an appropriate administrative and financial framework for accelerated rural reconstruction and decentralization of major cities, and mobilizing resources both locally and internationally for the promotion of an indigenous construction sector, including the production of local building materials;

(b) Assisting member States in the promotion of a network of training centres and institutions specializing in the field of human settlements, in order to train personnel for the implementation of planned activities;

(c) Assisting member States in the collection and processing of information data in the field of human settlements with a view to establishing a regional database.

SUBPROGRAMME 11. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.82 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolution 44/237; Council resolutions 1987/20 and 1989/115; and Commission resolutions 531 (XX), 564 (XXII), 588 (XXII), 656 (XXIV) and 662 (XXIV).

30.83 Industrial policies and strategies formulated at the eve of independence have given rise to the establishment of import-intensive and technologically dependent industries in most countries of Africa, both in the consumer- and capital-goods subsectors. In addition, most of these industries were not designed for the satisfaction of the needs of a large domestic market. As a result, in many cases, basic industries, such as chemical engineering and metal, have not been given adequate attention and excessive dependence on imported factor inputs coupled with narrow demand have turned many industries into non-profitable ventures, which led to widespread underutilization of installed capacity or the closing of many industries. In addition, small-scale industries, which are expected to create employment and contribute substantially to the development of African economies, are not yet well developed and promoted. The industrial sector has also failed to established a dynamic link with the agriculture sector.

30.84 While the development of small-scale, cottage and rural industries is increasingly given priority attention by African countries, there still is a need for greater awareness of the role of small-scale industries in the building up of a sound and self-sustained industrial base characterized by the existence of linkages within the industrial sector and between industry and other sectors.

30.85 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To assist ECA members and intergovernmental organizations in Africa in the development and promotion of capabilities for the formulation of industrial policies, plans and strategies geared towards industrial productivity and nationalization of existing industrial structure;

(b) To promote industrial programmes and projects aimed at creating national or multinational resource-based and core-engineering industries;

(c) To promote technological and entrepreneurial capabilities, especially for small-scale industries;

(d) To assist in building and strengthening subregional and regional institutions for industrial development in the fields of technology, standardization, production and management.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.86 The ECA secretariat will undertake research studies and provide advisory services to member States, with a view of developing and promoting capabilities for formulation of industrial policies and strategies geared towards restructuring and rehabilitating the industrial sector. It will organize country and subregional workshops and seminars for government officials and individual entrepreneurs with a view of promoting small-scale industries and ensuring that those industries are integrated into the development process. Furthermore, the ECA secretariat will prepare and conduct training programmes in order to improve and strengthen capabilities of African countries in industrial planning, establishment and management of industries and the rehabilitation of existing industries within the framework of subregional economic policies. Such activities will be organized in collaboration with the secretariats of UNIDO, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing, the African Regional Centre for Technology and the African Regional Organization for Standardization.

30.87 Major activities in the field of agro- and forest-based industries will include preparation of technical studies and provision of technical advisory services to Governments on the rehabilitation and upgrading of some of the identified agro- and forest-based industries; identification, preparation, appraisal and promotion of projects aimed at expanding food preservation and processing industries; organization of training courses, seminars and study tours on managing agro- and forest-based industries with special emphasis on the aspects of preservation, processing and storage of food. Consultations among the ECA members and promotional meetings between countries and potential donors and partners will also be organized.

SUBPROGRAMME 12. TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

(a) Objectives

30.88 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 42/175 and 44/218; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/68 and 1989/118; and ECA resolutions 568 (XXI), 590 (XXII), 591 (XXII) and 593 (XXII).

30.89 The African countries continue to experience a low level of domestic trade, which is characterized by lopsided distribution and marketing policies in which serious shortages of consumption of goods and food exist side-by-side with surpluses within the same economy. Low priority is still accorded in the rural areas to trade services, as well as trade financing and credit. Intra-African trade continues to have a declining role in the development process and shows insufficient positive results. It is further aggravated by continued prohibitive tariff and non-tariff barrier policies even where treaties for cooperation explicitly call for trade liberalization within the preferential trade areas. The problem of continued dominance of primary commodity exports in Africa's external trade and the lack of diversification continue to be a major obstacle in international trade. The lack of up-to-date and reliable trade statistics and information, as well as inadequate marketing strategies and export techniques, also constitute a priority problem to be addressed.

30.90 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To enhance Africa's trade sector through the adoption of appropriate measures, policies and strategies for the expansion of domestic, regional and external trade;

(b) To strengthen existing institutions for subregional trade cooperation by making them more operational and responsive to Africa's trade requirements and help harmonize their negotiating positions in all international conferences on trade.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.91 The strategy for the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan will be significantly different from that elaborated in the present period. The institution-building process for trade promotion and cooperation is about to be completed and new efforts will be directed towards the strengthening of operational capabilities of those institutions.

30.92 Priority will be given to supporting the development of import-substitution policies, market research, demand and supply analysis and trade facilitation at the country, regional and interregional levels. The secretariat will disseminate the findings of studies and analyses, in particular through seminars, workshops and symposia. The secretariat will assist the Commission in developing aggressive trade promotion strategies and mechanisms to improve the export performance of the African countries and improve the foreign exchange capabilities, strengthening existing trade institutions at the national and subregional level through, inter alia, specific-targeted training and skills upgrading programmes in the field of trade.

SUBPROGRAMME 13. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

(a) Objectives

30.93 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 43/198 and 44/205; Council resolution 1988/7; and Commission resolution 619 (XXII).

30.94 During the 1980s, the African monetary and financial situation had deteriorated to a point where existing policies, structures and institutions were unable to support reasonable or sustained rates of growth and development. Although many financial and monetary institutions had been created and are operational, the ECA members are, in practice, not relying on or using them to provide technical support and advisory services in that area. The monetary and financial situation is characterized by a large development financing gap, increased accumulated arrears in debt servicing and the overall debt stock, and a general inability to cope with an increasingly less favourable international monetary and financial environment. The subregional monetary and financial institutions, particularly in respect of payments and clearing arrangements, are too weak and ineffective to provide the support required in that area by member States.

30.95 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist:

(a) In the promotion of orderly and effective monetary and financial cooperation at the subregional and regional levels, as a means of enhancing better management of resources;

(b) In strengthening the existing institutional machinery for cooperation and consultation and in increasing the exchange of information on development financing and investment;

(c) In the establishment of subregional and regional monetary and financial institutions, where appropriate, in particular, the African Monetary Fund and the African Payments Union.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.96 During the period 1992-1997, the ECA secretariat will focus on measures to be elaborated for halting or reversing the downward trends in resource inflows, especially on concessional terms. New practical and more imaginative solutions will be sought to deal with the problems of inadequacy of financing, including low domestic savings. Through workshops, studies and analyses of developments and trends in that sector of the African economy, measures will be devised for:

(a) Assessing the impact of external development on the African economies, particularly the new monetary arrangements within the European Monetary System;

(b) Strengthening of existing institutions for regional monetary and financial cooperation and the establishment and operationalization of an African Monetary Fund;

(c) Elaborating more intensive programmes and policies for resources management;

(d) Reversing the flight of capital and attracting direct foreign investments, especially in subregional and regional projects and programmes;

(e) Fostering increased self-reliance in financing development through more intensive programmes for domestic savings and resources mobilization.

SUBPROGRAMME 14. MANAGEMENT OF AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

(a) Objectives

30.97 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 43/198 and 44/205; Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/7; and ECA resolution 619 (XXII).

30.98 Africa's external debt has grown at an alarming rate over the last decade and has been accompanied by mounting servicing difficulties. The debt situation, which had reached crisis

proportions by 1984, worsened again in 1989. Total external debt increased from $US 249.7 billion in 1988 to an estimated $US 256.9 billion in 1989. Arrears have accumulated at the same alarming rate. The severity of the problem has been illustrated by the relation of debt stock to various economic indicators. On the eve of the medium-term plan period, Africa's debt stood at more than 92 per cent of total regional GDP, and 328.4 per cent of the value of export earnings. Projections indicate that the debt crisis will worsen during the plan period unless drastic solutions are found that will go beyond the measures that have been taken until now.

30.99 The implications of the debt problem for the region cannot be overemphasized. There has been a depressive impact on monetary and financial programmes and policies, and on the social and economic development of the African countries. Credit facilities have been tightened in association with declining trends in resources flows into the region. Official development assistance has stagnated in real terms. As a result, many African countries have been forced into default in meeting their debt-service obligations. The subprogramme is directed towards finding positive and lasting solutions that will allow countries to achieve the necessary recovery and lead to sustained growth and development.

30.100 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To assist member States in designing and implementing more effective debt-management strategies, and to strengthen their policy framework and instruments for external debt management; in decreasing their stocks of debt and arrears; in increasing proper identification of more appropriate sources of external debt and other financing, including foreign direct investment; and in improving the selection and implementation of those investment and development projects which would increase the potential for debt reduction and debt servicing;

(b) To develop and strengthen the institutional machinery at the national, subregional and regional levels for debt analysis, monitoring and evaluation, to increase Africa's managerial and technical capacity to service its debt; and to increase the negotiating skills of African managers through appropriate training programmes.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.101 In order to achieve the above objectives and to formulate more imaginative solutions to Africa's mounting debt burden, the secretariat will undertake extensive research and analysis of the structure and magnitude of the debt problem in Africa, identify the root causes and investigate the possibilities of linking debt-management programmes at all levels with the overall financial and monetary objectives of member States. In addition, assistance will be provided through workshops, meetings, advisory missions and studies, with the following activities receiving the highest priority:

(a) Assessment of the impact of developments in the international economic environment on the reduction of Africa's debt stock and debt servicing;

(b) Elaboration of more intensive programmes and policies for both external and internal debt, and for resource management;

(c) Assessment of the appropriateness or adequacy of the initiatives taken during the previous plan period to solve the African debt problem, as they relate to defining a new approach that places debt in the context of growth;

(d) Collaboration with other institutions and organizations concerned with Africa's debt problem, with a view to mounting joint programmes that would be more responsive to the needs of African countries in this field.

SUBPROGRAMME 15. NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) Objectives

30.102 The legislative authority of the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 40/171, 42/186 and 44/225; Council resolutions 1989/7, 1989/8 and 1989/12; and Commission resolution 602 (XXII).

30.103 The African mineral sector has experienced a number of adverse years during the 1980s. The sector, which depends heavily on export demands, has been seriously affected by the decline in international demand for mineral commodities produced in the region. At the same time, access to finance continues to be a major obstacle in view of the fact that mineral exploration is a high-risk activity and construction of major mines and processing facilities requires large sums of investment in mineral exploration and development of the sector

30.104 As regards water resources, much more remains to be done to ensure its efficient development and use. The activities being implemented under the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa in 1980 have been severely affected by the economic crisis and the natural disasters during the 1980s. Progress with the use of irrigation for food and agriculture has been disappointing, with food production still lagging behind the rate of population growth and with three-quarters of the rural population still having no access to safe drinking-water or sanitation facilities.

30.105 While there is an increasing awareness of the potentials of cartography and remote sensing as tools for natural resources planning, development and management, detection of hazards and environmental monitoring, including combating drought and desertification, the overall capabilities of most countries in that field remain inadequate for their needs in natural resources development, planning and monitoring.

30.106 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist countries of the region in:

(a) Improving their efficiency in metal and mineral production and machinery;

(b) Improving national capabilities for exploration and utilization of surface and groundwater resources;

(c) Promoting regional and subregional cooperation in the use of shared water resources.

30.107 In the field of cartography, the objectives of the subprogramme are to assist member States:

(a) To develop and strengthen institutional, technological and human resources capabilities for the application of cartography and remote-sensing techniques in data collection and use for the exploitation of natural resources and environmental management;

(b) To enhance policies and design legislative guidelines for the use of cartography and remote sensing in social and economic development planning.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.108 Assistance will be provided to member States in building up their technical knowledge of mineral resources through the preparation of technical studies on all aspects of development and utilization of selected minerals, such as base commodities, ferrous and non-ferrous and fertilizer minerals, and in compiling information on mineral resources inventories. Training will be provided through workshops, seminars and study tours, on all aspects relating to mineral exploration and exploitation.

30.109 In the field of water resources, research and analysis will be undertaken on policy issues, technical assistance and advisory services will be provided and training courses, workshops, seminars and study tours will be organized and promoted in the fields of planning, management and institutional-capability development assessment of water resources and river and lake-basin development.

30.110 In the field of cartography, the secretariat will continue to offer technical advisory services to member States so as to make their national institutions more responsive to their national cartographic and remote-sensing needs for planning and development. Those services will focus on the formulation and execution of cooperative projects, such as the establishment of common geodetic standards and mapping specifications, building up of a geographic information database for Africa, through a continuous and systematic collection of maps and charts for the Map Documentation and Reference Centre, as an all-Africa map library; assistance in the development of the capacity to acquire a geographic information system for the rational exploitation and management of natural resources; and the establishment of a cartographic and remote-sensing information data bank.

SUBPROGRAMME 16. ENERGY INCLUDING NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

(a) Objectives

30.111 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 40/208, 42/186 and 43/193; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/10 and 1989/6; and ECA resolution 572 (XXI).

30.112 The situation in Africa is characterized by:

(a) Low levels of total energy availability and use for production sectors of the economy, coupled with high levels of wastage, that is, low efficiency in the production, conversion, transport, distribution and end-use of all forms of energy;

(b) Excessively high share of traditional biomass fuels in total energy consumption, coupled with very high levels of wastage in the use of all biomass fuels;

(c) Rapid depletion of standing biomass stocks in each of the major ecological zones and, consequently, rapidly growing scarcity, as well as growing deficiency, of traditional biomass fuels. That is increasing the burden women and children bear in gathering and using household fuels for family needs and the crisis over reduction of green areas of the Earth with repercussions of climate changes;

(d) High share of liquid petroleum fuels, used mainly in road and rail transport, in total commercial energy supplies, coupled with high levels of wastage in the end-use of such transport fuels;

(e) High burden resulting from the use of foreign exchange resources in the importation of petroleum and its derivatives imposed on the economies of most African countries;

(f) Escalation in the foreign exchange costs of technologies, both hardware as well as software, that are needed to expand rapidly the indigenous production of energy supplies and to improve energy end-use efficiency;

(g) Lack of adequate policy and planning research capacity indispensable for the formulation of coherent country-specific and resource-specific energy policies, plans and phased strategies essential for extracting each country from the complex energy crises it faces.

30.113 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist member States in:

(a) Developing their national capabilities for exploration, exploitation, evaluation and development of energy resources and in promoting multinational cooperation activities;

(b) Integrating energy policies into general socio-economic growth and development policies.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.114 The ECA secretariat will provide assistance to the Commission's members and the African regional organizations in undertaking a systematic and comprehensive inventory of conventional and renewable sources of energy and analyzing the conditions for their exploitation, distribution and use in order to establish the optimum conditions for their development. Assistance will also be provided in formulating integrated energy policies and in integrating them into overall socio-economic development and economic growth policies, in maximizing efficiency in the production, conversion, distribution and end-use of all forms of energy, and in the development of programmes for rapid replenishment of biomass fuels and for conservation measures for all sources of energy.

30.115 Efforts will continue in the collection, processing and dissemination of information and data on energy to assist member States in the formulation of their energy plans and assessment of the overall situation in the continent, in particular, by means of workshops and seminars. Furthermore, training of African researchers, engineers and technicians in the field of conventional and new and renewable sources of energy will continue through seminars, workshops and study tours. In the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, programmes will be formulated that will aim at developing the technical capabilities of African countries in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the development of nuclear science and technology.

SUBPROGRAMME 17. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.116 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 43/184, 43/192, 44/14, 44/169 and 44/236; Council resolution 1987/79; and Commission resolution 629 (XXIII).

30.117 In spite of the often stated recognition of the role of science and technology in development, it is not fully reflected in national development plans. The majority of African countries still have no explicit policies for science and technology and the sporadic and often unharmonized initiatives in that area are inadequate to bring about concerted action in the subregions. The problems facing the region include the weak scientific infrastructure in many countries, the weak linkages between the productive sector and the scientific and technological institutions and the inadequacy of strategies to acquire technologies through technology transfer for the critical sectors. Furthermore, insufficient practical orientation of some scientific courses and research and their irrelevance to the needs or the local environment creates a situation in which researchers cannot effectively respond to the technical challenges of their societies. Unsatisfactory work conditions and the marginalization of the contribution

of indigenous technical personnel in their countries have also led to the brain drain and the subsequent worsening of the human resources situation.

30.118 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote an understanding of the role of science and technology in economic and social development, as well as of the nature and levels of possible State intervention in that sector in order to ensure the attainment of development strategies;

(b) To provide assistance to ECA members and their intergovernmental organizations in the development, through appropriate education and training programmes, of the required science and technology personnel for technology assessment, transfer, development and application.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.119 In the course of implementation of the subprogramme, the ECA secretariat will focus on the following activities:

(a) Assistance to African countries in establishing or strengthening national, subregional and regional centres for technology, including an advance technology alert system, and in enhancing the system of developing qualified science and technology human resources, including women;

(b) Studies on principles of technological policy-making and planning for development, technological assessment in the process of acquisition and transfer of technology;

(c) Technical assistance to African countries and relevant regional and subregional institutions, such as the African Regional Centre for Technology, the African Regional Organization for Standardization, and others, in development and implementation of the projects of their specific concern;

(d) Dissemination of information on science and technology in specific fields of science to African countries, in particular through seminars, workshops, study tours and other relevant mechanisms.

SUBPROGRAMME 18. POPULATION

(a) Objectives

30.120 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 44/169; Council resolutions 1989/89, 1989/90, 1989/91, 1989/92 and 1989/93; and Commission resolution 506 (XIX).

30.121 There have been marked changes recently among many member States in their perception of population issues as central to socio-economic development planning, and attempts are being made at formulating population policies within the framework of their development plans. Unfortunately, data constraints, lack of adequately developed methodologies, a shortage of adequately trained personnel to deal with population and development issues, as well as weak or non-existent mechanisms to facilitate the flow of population and related information needed for socio-economic planning, prevented successful implementation of population policies.

30.122 Moreover, methodological problems related to data collection, analysis and use of findings in policy formulation remain major constraints to the integration of population variables into development planning. Owing to those problems, a number of African countries have experienced difficulties in analyses of censuses undertaken during the 1980s and in preparation of censuses to be undertaken during the 1990s. Much more has to be done for training of personnel in the field of population, in particular through better utilization of existing training facilities in the region.

30.123 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To facilitate the integration of population factors into socio-economic development planning in the region;

(b) To assist ECA members in formulating and implementing relevant population programmes and policies, in evaluating family planning programmes, in establishing or strengthening national population information systems, and in analyzing and utilizing demographic data, as well as in training of related personnel.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.124 Assistance in the formulation and implementation of relevant population programmes and policies will be provided through regional advisory services, upon request. Assistance will also be provided in setting up population units in planning offices, establishing population commissions and organizing study tours in countries with successful population programmes and policies.

30.125 The secretariat will undertake studies, research and analyses of specific issues in the field of population data, such as fertility, mortality, with emphasis on infant and child mortality, urbanization, population distribution and redistribution and migration, family planning and birth-spacing programmes, the integration of population variables in development planning, population policies, the role and status of women, population and environment, and their relation to socio-economic development. The related findings will be disseminated to the ECA members by organizing seminars, conferences and workshops.

SUBPROGRAMME 19. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Objectives

30.126 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 43/179; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/67 and 1989/115; and ECA resolutions 563 (XXI), 604 (XXII), 610 (XXII) and 639 (XXIII).

30.127 Most of the African countries are facing fundamental problems of how to manage efficiently and sustain the existing transport and communications infrastructures and expand them beyond the urban centres to the rural communities. In spite of the attempts made during the 1984-1989 period to develop the multimodal aspects of transport, mostly containerization, no significant success was achieved. Efforts were also not effective with regard to institution-building in general, owing largely to the lack of support by member States to sustain intergovernmental organizations already established. Unsatisfactory results were also apparent in the field of manpower development, owing mainly to the absence or inadequacy of proper human resource management systems.

30.128 The lack of integrated planning has also led to insufficient investments in transport and communications, the ineffective use of available equipment and the underutilization of existing networks.

30.129 The objectives of the subprogramme in the field of transport and communications are to assist member States in developing effective and efficient transport and communications networks that would enhance the physical integration of the African continent. In that regard, the efforts of ECA will be concentrated on bringing about practical cooperation on a multinational basis in the field of transport and communications, particularly in intercountry traffic facilitation, infrastructural development and maintenance in order to operate, manage and sustain efficiently the existing infrastructures. That would include incorporating new technologies, creating proper human resource management systems and manpower development, promoting restructuring of organizations and policies development, creating mail-routing transit centres and modernization of the postal system, and promoting basic research of trends in development of industries for transport and communications in Africa in the light of the objectives of the Second Transport and Communication Decade in Africa.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.130 During the period 1992-1997, the ECA secretariat will follow up on the studies and activities initiated during the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, extended to 1991, namely, facilitation of international traffic, manpower development and promotion of an African industry in transport and communications. It will promote the involvement of African countries in concrete projects, activities and operational mechanisms related to facilitation of traffic, maintenance and development of transport and communications infrastructures with special emphasis on inter-State links and transit corridors, installation of human resource management systems in all transport and communications institutions, and development of joint operations of transport and communications services, where practicable, in

order to promote regional cooperation in that field. The ECA secretariat will undertake studies and research of specific issues in the field of transport and communications and their trends at the regional, subregional and national levels and disseminate the related findings within the region. The activities concerning institution infrastructure will be reoriented from the establishment of new institutions to the strengthening and the rationalization of the existing ones.

SUBPROGRAMME 20. TOURISM

(a) Objectives

30.131 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 40/172, and ECA resolutions 567 (XXI) and 640 (XXII).

30.132 The tourism industry in Africa is confronted with operational and management problems, aggravated by inadequate tourism infrastructures and services in some countries, and by a lack of sufficient, qualified personnel and training institutions in the region. The exogenous nature of African tourism should also be corrected by developing intra-African tourism and building up managerial expertise. The management of the tourist product should be carried out by qualified personnel from the region, so as to curb the massive outflow of the resources needed for overall development and to have a better control over the development of tourism in Africa.

30.133 There is a lack of adequate facilities at almost all levels of management training. In addition, training programmes should be harmonized in order to ensure better integration of training and the exchange of qualified staff.

30.134 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the rational integration of tourism resources and potential, cooperation and harmonious integration of policies and programmes related to tourism development,

(b) To strengthen regional cooperation in tourism, through the establishment of inter-State circuits and machineries, joint promotion of tourism and a multinational vocational training system;

(c) To assist African countries in acquiring an increased level of necessary expertise in the field of tourism.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.135 The secretariat will continue to assist member States through advisory services, organization of workshops and seminars, continuous survey and assessment of tourism potential, identification of training needs and collection and dissemination of tourism information. The secretariat will also continue to promote regional and subregional programmes for the harmonization and standardization of hotel management methods, programmes for training in planning and analysis, the establishment of

efficient vocational training systems, as well as mechanisms for consultation among tourism professionals in Africa. It will also provide assistance to member States in the establishment of inter-State circuits and mechanisms for their effective use.

SUBPROGRAMME 21. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.136 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2 and 44/169 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/3.

30.137 Statistical development in Africa is still unsatisfactory despite some improvement in statistical organization and production over the last two decades. Few countries have well coordinated plans for statistical development and even fewer for national development plans that incorporate statistical development. There is a persistent lack of trained and experienced statisticians in many African countries. A number of statistical personnel have been trained, but the statistical brain drain, especially at the management level, has continued. In spite of the advent of more efficient hardware and software, the time lag between the collection of data and the publication of results is still too long. That is the result of a lack of statisticians with modern data-processing skills and of qualified data-processing specialists, as well as an insufficient level of coordination between such specialists and computer personnel, particularly where large quantities of data need to be processed. Wider and more efficient microcomputer applications are needed for improving the timeliness and analytical quality of statistics.

30.138 The scope, quality and analysis of statistics in Africa hardly meet the elementary requirements of planning and decision-making. Those deficiencies may translate into enormous costs if factors behind socio-economic and environmental crises remain unknown and thus unattended. Despite an improvement in demographic data collection, Africa still lags behind in the availability of detailed and timely data regarding fertility, mortality and migration, especially with respect to the determinants and effects of trends in those fields, while data pertaining to environmental problems are almost non-existent. Many African countries do not as yet have basic statistics on agriculture, trade, industry, energy, transport, communications or price statistics. National accounts have been compiled and processed for different periods of time for nearly all countries of the region, but the basic data for compiling the accounts are limited, inadequate and, in most cases, very general, fixed parameter models have been used to evaluate quite different activities.

30.139 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To assist African countries in establishing and/or developing a durable infrastructure for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of integrated demographic, social and economic statistics;

(b) To integrate environment statistics into routine data-collection activities and to collect data on special population groups, such as women, children, the disabled and the aged;

(c) To assist African countries to build up statistical data required for drawing up meaningful economic and social development plans;

(d) To develop the necessary statistical data in planning, monitoring and evaluating social and economic progress;

(e) To provide continuous support for developing national data-processing capabilities, especially by enhancing the utilization of microcomputers;

(f) To expand the availability of and improve the ease of access to national, subregional and regional databases;

(g) To promote the improvement of the quality, relevance, timeliness and intercountry comparability of the data being collected.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.140 During 1992-1997, in order to improve the situation in the field of statistics in the region, the ECA secretariat will undertake the following activities and will provide:

(a) Assistance to member States for the maintenance and strengthening of their institutional framework and for the provision of data for integrated planning. Areas covered will include demographic, social and economic data, particularly on households and household members, as well as environment statistics;

(b) Advisory services to countries on the formulation of statistical plans, including data-production schedules, training programmes and detailed data-processing requirements, on the establishment of user/producer committees for optimizing the use and relevance of statistical services, and on the development and maintenance of integrated computer-based systems of economic, social, demographic and environment statistics;

(c) Advisory services in the fields of population censuses, civil registration, household surveys, environment statistics, national accounts, trade statistics and industrial statistics, which will concentrate on building up self-reliance and will therefore emphasize on-the-job training;

(d) Expansion of the existing regional statistical database, with a view to disseminating to users comprehensive and up-to-date statistical information, including well-documented data from other international data banks and from national sources;

(e) Statistical computing materials for on-the-job training and formal training of statisticians at statistical training centres;

(f) Methodological studies that will be carried out in specific areas of economic, social, demographic and environment statistics. Those studies will have two main objectives, namely, to identify and analyze the shortcomings of the basic statistics at the national level, and to serve as technical guidelines for member States to assist them in their efforts to improve the quality and timeliness of data being collected;

(g) A series of seminars and training workshops to examine conceptual and organizational requirements for improving national, subregional and regional programmes on socio-economic and environment statistics, to promote the exchange of experiences between the countries of the region in the field of statistics and to develop further the professional competence of the participants. Those workshops and seminars will focus on statistical computing, population census, with particular reference to special population groups, civil registration systems and vital statistics collection, household surveys, environment statistics, international trade statistics, business surveys, basic economic statistics and national accounts. A series of technical documents will be prepared on the above topics and disseminated among member States.